



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Department of Human Services  
Office of Rehabilitation Services

40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
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September 24, 2007

Edward Anthony, Ph.D.  
C/O Jeremy Buzzell  
Rehabilitation Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
PCP Room 5025  
Washington, DC 20202-2800

RE: Amendment to 7/30/07 State Plan Update Letter for Assistive Technology Grant  
for Federal Year 2008

Dear Dr. Anthony:

The purpose of this correspondence is to amend the FY 2008 Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) plan update that was submitted on July 30, 2007.

This amended letter reflects the following recommended changes:

- I. Attachment 5.1: The addition of the following statement at the end of the first paragraph: "Rhode Island is invoking the flexibility clause for state financing until the state can identify funding for such activity. The ATAP budget for FY 2008 will reflect the use of 70% of funds on device demonstration, device loan and device reuse and 30% on state leadership activities."
- II. Attachment 7: The addition of this attachment to address the flexibility clause.
- III. Attachment 11: The addition of this attachment reflects the revised budget due to Rhode Island invoking the 70/30 flexibility clause.

If you should have any questions, please contact Kathleen Grygiel at 401-421-7005, extension 373 or e-mail at [kgrygiel@ors.ri.gov](mailto:kgrygiel@ors.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Carroll,  
Administrator



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RE: Revision to July 30, 2007 State Plan Update for Assistive Technology for Federal Year 2008

Dear Dr. Anthony:

We are submitting this letter on behalf of the State of Rhode Island per the instructions in your correspondence dated April 30, 2007. The following information covers Year Three of the Assistive Technology Access Partnership Program (ATAP) of Rhode Island under Section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act) from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Rhode Island will allocate any grant funds used during this period in accordance with the requirements of the AT Act. The following information addresses the requested amendments of the state plan:

**I. ATTACHMENT 3: ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Rhode Island Council on Assistive Technology (RICAT) was established in 1993 to provide advice and input to ATAP. According to the Council's approved By-laws, total membership is twenty-five. Currently, there are three vacancies on the Council, for which recruitment is underway. RICAT members are recruited through a variety of methods, which include: formal newspaper advertisements; ORS/RICAT website; list serves, web pages, and newsletters of agencies/organizations serving people with disabilities, as well as through direct referrals by members, ATAP staff and colleagues. The Department of Health, Workforce Investment Board, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are invited to appoint an individual to RICAT. Two of the professional representatives are also individuals with disabilities. The current percentage of consumers and family members exceeds 51%.

The current RICAT membership is as follows:

Florence Adeni-Awosika – Person with a Disability  
John Benevides – Professional from Citizens Bank  
Gary Brandyberry - Person with a Disability  
Kerri Cicione - Professional  
Kevin Cronin - Person with a Disability  
Harry Dunbar - Person with a Disability  
Margaret Dunning - Person with a Disability  
Kathleen Fresher Samways – Professional  
Margaret Hoyer - Person with a Disability  
Elisabeth Hubbard - Person with a Disability  
James Litvak – Representative, PARI Independent Living Center  
Phyllis Lynch – Representative, Rhode Island Department Of Education  
Joe Murphy – Representative, Combined VR/Services for the Blind  
Jeanne Panarace - Person with a Disability  
Robert Perrello – Family member of person with a Disability  
Charles Pollock - Person with a Disability  
Lorna Ricci – Representative, Governor’s Workforce Investment Board  
William Robinson - Person with a Disability  
Ying Sun – Professional  
Adrienne Varner – Representative, Rhode Island Department of Health  
Jill Waller-Blaney - Person with a Disability  
Kim Wennermark - Person with a Disability

Council meetings are public, in accordance with the RI Open Meetings Law, and are conducted at locations, which are fully accessible, and on public transportation routes. The RICAT meeting calendar is publicly posted through the RI Secretary of State. Full accommodations are provided and may include CART, American Sign Language interpreters and material distribution in large print/Braille. Meetings are conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. RICAT must meet at least four times per year, but usually meets every other month. While RICAT meetings are generally conducted in person, the various committee meetings may be conducted in person, electronically, via teleconferencing, or a combination of formats.

RICAT leadership consists of an elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, and the Executive Committee. Membership, Legislative, and Communications are standing committees. A new standing committee – Partner Support – was recently approved by the Council. Ad hoc committees have been devoted to Bylaws, Program, Alternative Finance, and State Plan. The RICAT Chairperson appoints all Committee chairs; if necessary, a Committee chair may be removed by a quorum of the full Council.

Much of RICAT's work and planning occurs at the committee level:

- The Executive Committee (consists of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Committee Chairs) serves as the steering committee, responsible for providing direction to RICAT, making recommendations to ATAP staff and partners, proposing changes to By-laws, discussing issues of special importance prior to Council meetings, and developing meeting agendas. The Executive Committee helps to develop specific annual objectives for the standing committees.
- The Membership Committee has the ongoing responsibility of nominating appropriate individuals to RICAT, in accordance with the By-laws. As a basis for nomination, this committee conducts membership outreach, provides membership information, and interviews prospective RICAT applicants. In addition, the committee may review regular member attendance. This Committee conducts an annual review of expiring member terms on the Council, and conducts outreach/nomination for new members as required. In addition, the Committee responds similarly to unexpected vacancies when they arise.
- Information and advocacy are the core functions of the Legislative Committee. Federal and State legislation and policies affecting assistive technology are researched, and brought to the Council. RICAT may then vote to support/endorse such legislation or policy, and take appropriate action. The Legislative Committee may, with RICAT approval, advocate in specific contexts for assistive technology, such as the annual public forums held by the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities or legislative hearings.
- The Communications Committee works closely with ATAP subcontractors to increase awareness about the availability of, and benefits of, assistive technology. The Committee offers presentations/demonstrations tailored to the needs of a variety of audiences. The Committee has also devoted much effort to the design and maintenance of RICAT web pages, which are within the ORS website. During the coming year, the Communications Committee will continue with its efforts to enhance and update RICAT web pages, and offer informational workshops to both consumers and professionals. The Committee is working on a RICAT brochure that will be distributed at the annual AT conference on 11/27/07 as well as through other venues.
- The recently-approved Partner Support Committee assists ATAP in reviewing subcontractor/partner work plans, measuring fulfillment of work plan objectives, offering technical assistance and identifying resources which can enhance partners' assistive technology services. Specifically, the Committee will review partner work plans and make at least one site visit with the ATAP Director to observe partner activities, offer suggestions to partners and ATAP staff to enhance achievement of

objectives, and report to RICAT at each full Council meeting. The Partner Support Committee has recently developed a protocol/guideline for site visits and will pilot the format via a site visit in October 2007.

- In summary, RICAT meets the requirements of Section 4(c) (2) of the Assistive Technology Act, as amended

## **II. ATTACHMENT 4: MEASURABLE GOALS AND DATA COLLECTION**

The ATAP Program established goals to improve access to and acquisition of Assistive Technology in education, employment, community living and information technology/telecommunications. During Year Two of the grant period, it was determined to be an opportunity to establish a baseline in order to measure any improvements. Assisting ORS/SBVI and ATEL in completing the required data collection instruments will be incorporated into program development for FY 2008.

As of February 1, 2007, the established ATAP partners have been using the RSA data collection instrument on a quarterly basis to report activities and outcomes to the Lead Agency, ORS. This data is entered into a spreadsheet, by the ATAP Director, which replicates the data elements required in the RSA data collection instrument so that this information can be submitted by December 20, 2007.

Based on this information, the ATAP Program will submit to RSA, no later than January 30, 2008, baseline data to establish measurable and improvement goals for the third year of the state plan (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). The ATAP partners are in the process of formulating some procedural guidelines for the statewide device loan, demonstration and re-utilization programs. We also plan to develop a satisfaction survey to be used by all partners.

## **III. ATTACHMENT 5: STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES**

### **ATTACHMENT 5.1: ALTERNATIVE FINANCING:**

As part of Rhode Island's State Plan for Assistive Technology under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended, the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services ATAP conducted a Feasibility Study to determine the demand for alternative financing to increase acquisition of Assistive Technology by individuals with disabilities. The methodology, respondent demographics, and overall findings were explained in the Rhode Island ATAP Plan Update in 2006, so they will not be repeated in the transmittal letter. The ATAP survey confirmed the need for additional and alternative funding sources for the acquisition of Assistive Technology devices by individuals with disabilities and their families. However, limited funding, program cutbacks and personnel reductions continue to

play a significant role in shaping ATAP's State Financing System for Assistive Technology acquisition. Rhode Island is invoking the flexibility clause for state financing until the state can identify funding for such activity. The ATAP budget for FY 2008 will reflect the use of 70% of funds on device demonstration, device loan and device reuse and 30% on state leadership activities.

- The 2006 ATAP State Plan identified that modified vehicles and home modifications are not currently addressed through the existing ATAP Program. The RI plan for Alternative Financing included exploring ways to increase acquisition of modified vehicles by working with private industry providers to reduce the cost to customers via a bundled service model and financing: dealerships, van modification product and service vendors, financial institutions, insurers & AAA. The exploration of this strategy will need to be advanced to Year Three of the grant as staffing vacancies prohibit addressing this issue.
- It is anticipated that the number of RI seniors will increase by 20% from 2005 to 2015. Increasing access to blind/low vision and hearing devices based on the heavy demand among individuals 65 and over and demographic projections of Rhode Island's aging population is a priority for ATAP. The ATAP Partners and the recently formed New England AT Directors Group will explore the feasibility of group purchasing options to increase access to blind/low vision and hearing devices.
- Incorporating the Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL) into the ATAP partnership has already been initiated with the ATEL work plan for FY 2008. Determining how to utilize federal funds to decrease administrative costs and free up state funds to increase purchasing ability of communication devices will be addressed as funds are identified.
- The RICAT Alternative Finance Ad Hoc Committee, with the ATAP Director as Chair, has had to delay developing an alternative loan program until funding can be identified. However, the Ad Hoc Committee is exploring replicating an AT funding source database developed by both the Colorado and Florida AT Programs. Rhode Island already has the "*Guide to AT Funding*" developed by the Disability Law Center and one of the ATAP partners, OSCIL, has staff who maintains current information about funding sources. The Colorado or Florida database could be adapted to incorporate local information already identified by RI agencies and ATAP partners. In addition, development of the database for local use will incorporate a listing of possible devices and services for different types of disabilities.

#### ATTACHMENT 5.2: DEVICE REUTILIZATION:

One of the ATAP partners, PARI Independent Living Center, operates a Reutilization Program that recycles primarily assistive technology associated with Health, Safety, Daily

Living, Positioning, Seating and Positioning equipment. From 10/1/06 – 1/31/07, PARI has recycled 163 items with an estimated savings to consumers of \$79,190. Increasing the array of device options available through the program is being addressed by exploring ATEL supplying PARI with used but functional communication devices.

Last year ORS, as indicated in the State Plan, entered into a subcontract with Agora-net, a web developer, to create an internet based multi-state AT device exchange site for the six New England states. The ATAP partners are developing a marketing strategy to increase knowledge about and use of the device exchange website – [www.GetATstuff.com](http://www.GetATstuff.com). This plan includes posting an ATAP partner approved narrative describing the web site in agency newsletters as well as advertisements on local buses.

From 10/1/06 through 1/31/07, the following data was collected on the ATAP Reutilization program in RI:

DEVICE REUTILIZATION		DATA PERIOD: 10/1/06 – 1/31/07
A. RECIPIENTS RECEIVING DEVICE		NUMBER
▪ Device exchange		20
▪ Recycling/repair		143
▪ Speech Communication		10
▪ Open-ended loans		0
▪ Total		163
B. SAVINGS TO CONSUMERS FROM DEVICE EXCHANGE		\$44,000.00
C. SAVINGS TO CONSUMERS FROM DEVICE RECYCLING/REPAIR		\$35,190.00

#### ATTACHMENT 5.3: DEVICE DEMONSTRATION:

Through ORS/ATAP subcontracts, device demonstrations are operated by TechACCESS of RI, the East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC), OSCIL and PARI. Both TechACCESS and EBEC provide device demonstrations on a wide range of equipment to individuals with disabilities statewide at no cost to the individual. OSCIL and PARI tend to provide device demonstrations for primarily daily living and mobility devices. ORS also operates an on-site Career Assessment Center that provides an array of device demonstrations for employment, independent living and educational settings. Exploration of a network of demonstration sites in order to increase the variety and accessibility of devices available throughout RI is an activity being organized by the ATAP partners.



From 10/1/06 through 1/31/07, the following data was collected on the ATAP Device Demonstration program in RI:

DEVICE DEMONSTRATION DATA PERIOD: 10/1/06 – 1/31/07	
A. TYPE OF AT DEVICE OR SERVICE	NUMBER
▪ Vision	21
▪ Hearing	24
▪ Speech Communication	10
▪ Learning, cognition & developmental	36
▪ Mobility, seating and positioning	0
▪ Daily living	37
▪ Environmental adaptations	0
▪ Vehicle modification & transportation	3
▪ Computers and related	54
▪ Recreation, sports and leisure	0
▪ Other	0
▪ Total	185
B. TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS	
▪ Individuals with disabilities	108
▪ Family Members, guardians or authorized representatives	45
▪ Representatives of education	47
▪ Representatives of employment	0
▪ Representatives of health, allied health and rehabilitation	0
▪ Representatives of community living	1
▪ Representatives of technology	0
▪ Others	0
▪ Total	201
C. NUMBER OF REFERRALS	
▪ Funding source (non AT)	73
▪ Service provider	4
▪ Vendor	0
▪ Repair service	0
▪ Others	46
▪ Total	123

#### ATTACHMENT 5.4: DEVICE LOANS:

The ORS/ATAP Program, as well as the state Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, has developed device loan programs. In addition, EBEC and TechACCESS, ATAP subcontractors, provide device loan services in RI.



TechACCESS of RI loans devices in the areas of blind/low vision, hearing, communication, alternative access (keyboards, mice, switches etc.) and educational technologies to individuals of all ages and disabilities. Loans are self-initiated by individuals who have attended the weekly public demonstrations of technology at TechACCESS; students; educators and therapists who attend workshops at TechACCESS; referrals from professionals and other agencies; employers and by word of mouth. Acquisition of devices has increased beyond ATAP support due to successful grant writing which has this year targeted communication devices for individuals with neurological disorders and visual impairments. TechACCESS also works closely with vendors and individuals to acquire higher-end devices on loan/trial basis, as well as to obtain devices that have been used or are no longer in production. TechACCESS has initiated conversations with the NEAT Marketplace in Connecticut to identify ways to collaborate on a possible regional loan plan and make the RI program more effective and efficient.

From 10/1/06 through 1/31/07, the following data was collected on the ATAP Device Loan program in RI:

DEVICE LOANS		DATA PERIOD: 10/1/06 – 1/31/07
A. REASON FOR LOAN		NUMBER
▪ Primary purpose of loan was to assist in making purchasing decision		44
▪ Serve as loaner during repair or waiting for funding or purchase		12
▪ Provide a short term accommodation		2
▪ Other		8
▪ Total		66
B. NUMBER OF DEVICE LOANS BY BORROWER		
▪ Individuals with disabilities		30
▪ Family Members, guardians or authorized representatives		15
▪ Representatives of education		41
▪ Representatives of employment		4
▪ Representatives of health, allied health and rehabilitation		0
▪ Representatives of community living		1
▪ Representatives of technology		0
▪ Others		0
▪ Total		91
C. LENGTH OF SHORT TERM LOANS		
▪ Usual length in days		98
D. TYPE OF DEVICES LOANED		
▪ Vision		17
▪ Hearing		11
▪ Speech Communication		14

▪ Learning, cognition & developmental	26
▪ Mobility, seating and positioning	5
▪ Daily living	5
▪ Environmental adaptations	11
▪ Vehicle modification & transportation	0
▪ Computers and related	14
▪ Recreation, sports and leisure	0
▪ Other	2
▪ Total	105

#### IV. **ATTACHMENT 7: FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE:**

##### **ATTACHMENT 7.1: STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITY THE STATE IS CHOOSING NOT TO CARRY OUT.**

Due to limited funding, Rhode Island is invoking the flexibility clause for state financing until the state can identify funding for such activity. The ATAP budget for FY 2008 will reflect the use of 70% of funds on device demonstration, device loan and device reuse and 30% on state leadership activities.

##### **ATTACHMENT 7.2: STATEWIDENESS AND COMPREHENSIVENESS**

In order to implement the state level and leadership activities, ORS, as the lead agency, will continue to enter into subcontracts with community-based organizations including: TechACCESS of Rhode Island, East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC), Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), PARI Independent Living Center and the Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL). ORS subcontracts with these agencies to ensure that the services of ATAP are statewide, comprehensive and meet the needs of all disability groups. This has been the model of the AT program in Rhode Island since 1993. This decentralized model has been effective, as each subcontractor, in turn, provides services state-wide and has linkages with additional organizations through the other services and programs they provide throughout the state. Each of these agencies has governing boards or advisory committees allowing for more public involvement and consumer input.

##### **ATTACHMENT 7.3: ACHIEVEMENT OF MEASURABLE GOALS**

The data collection system being implemented will provide baseline data from 2/07-9/07 and will serve as the foundation for goal setting for the third year of the AT grant in the following areas:

- **EDUCATION GOALS:**

Both Tech Access and the East Bay Educational Collaborative are providing technical assistance and training to educational administrators and teachers regarding assistive technology in the classroom. TechACCESS and East Bay Educational Collaborative operate device demonstration and loan services for students, families and educators. ORS in partnership with RIDE will be meeting with Special Education Directors about the ATAP initiatives in relation to transition.

In addition, through its advisory council, the Rhode Island Assistive Technology (RICAT), ATAP has established a link to the University of Rhode (URI) Island Bioengineering Department that has established an Assistive Technology Laboratory as part of its Bioengineering Program.

- **EMPLOYMENT GOALS:**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services provides on-going training and technical assistance to staff on assistive technology and services to benefit their customers in order to facilitate full participation in the vocational rehabilitation process. ORS has and will continue to provide rehabilitation technology assessments, services and devices throughout rehabilitation process. ORS/ATAP provide training and technical assistance to One-Stop Career Centers and collaborates with the Disability Navigator to ensure that individuals with disabilities seeking employment have access to job related information, labor market information, and employment opportunities. Training is planned for the staff of each one Stop Center on the use of TTY and strategies for engaging Deaf and Hard of Hearing customers.

- **TELECOMMUNICATIONS GOALS/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOALS:**

With the inclusion of the ATEL program into the partnership, Rhode Islanders with disabilities will have increased access to telecommunications equipment demonstration and reutilization opportunities. ATAP remains committed to the provision of training and technical assistance to State and other governmental agencies related to information technology access. Sufficient resources were not available during Year Two of the Plan to address these issues. However, in Year 3 of the Plan ATAP will determine the extent of knowledge regarding accessible information requirements, techniques and strategies of information providers. ATAP will survey Rhode Island stakeholders to determine their capacities to access and use information technology resources from the internet, identify barriers to full information access experienced by individuals with disabilities and develop strategies to increase access to information on the internet.

- **COMMUNITY LIVING GOALS :**

Three ATAP partners focus on community living through their programs. The re-utilization programs of PARI and ATEL provide access to AT devices for individuals with disabilities in order to live as independently as possible in the community. In addition, another ATAP partner, OSCIL focuses on transitioning individuals from

nursing homes to less restrictive environments in the community. This service includes identifying and securing accessible housing, establishing community connections, arranging personal care attendant services and other community supports, and acquiring appropriate assistive technology and home safety device, based on individualized consumer needs.

**ATTACHMENT 7.4: COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH ENTITY PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE FINANCING ACTIVITY:**

Rhode Island, at this point, does not have an entity providing Alternative Financing as a state-level activity. However, several agencies have developed resources about funding options for assistive technology. The Disability Law Center has published a guide to Assistive Technology. ATAP provided feedback prior to publication of this document. In addition, OSCIL maintains a database on funding options for AT purchases. ATAP plans to utilize these existing resources as the foundation for a funding source data base similar to the Colorado AT program.

**V. ATTACHMENT 8: STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

**ATTACHMENT 8.1: TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

The EBEC AT Specialist has participated in the RI School Improvement Grant (RISIG). This includes technical assistance and support from the AT Resource Center. The expectation is that AT will be incorporated into daily instructional methods. The AT Children & Youth Specialist provides technical assistance and training on universal design to educators. The ATAP AT Children & Youth Specialist provides TA to the regional transition centers with the regional collaborative, parent transition specialists and vocational evaluators working in the Regional Vocational Center that are funded by ORS. In her role, she has provided workshops and trainings to students and educators.

TechACCESS continues to build assistive technology competency and skills by providing assistive technology training to educators and other professionals in RI through technology modules offered at the TechACCESS Center. All of the state colleges and universities as well as most of the private schools in RI take advantage of this training by incorporating modules into their curriculum. Participating schools include Rhode Island College; University of Rhode Island; Community College of Rhode Island; New England Institute of Technology; Johnson and Wales University; and Providence College. TechACCESS collaborates with RI College to teach the state's only graduate course in assistive technology "AT in the Classroom".

In collaboration with RIDE, monthly training sessions are provided on a variety of topics including new technologies, assessment strategies, materials development etc. for teachers, therapists, and other educational professionals. TechACCESS provides device and skills training sessions to individual students, families, educational professionals and users of technology through regularly scheduled weekly sessions.

Through its advisory council, the Rhode Island Assistive Technology (RICAT) ATAP has a link to the URI Bioengineering Department. Through this link the AT Lab at URI has developed a variety of customized AT devices to help individuals with quadriplegia, cerebral palsy and visual impairments. The lab has partnered with Enable Devices (Hastings-on-Hudson, New York) for transferring technologies to industry and developing prototypes into commercial products.

The OSCIL ATAP and Home Access Specialists are also involved with home modifications and assessment to identify appropriate assistive technology. ATAP through OSCIL has initiated a Community Living option to facilitate individuals with disabilities transitioning from nursing homes to less restrictive environments. This type of service is quite comprehensive and includes acquisition of appropriate assistive technology- based on customer needs. Through the Community Living option, OSCIL also provides technical assistance to nursing home staff seeking assistance on how to safely transition their residents into less restrictive living environments. OSCIL also has the Deaf Services Specialist administer the Adaptive Shake-Awake Smoke Detector Program, conduct home assessments to identify appropriate assistive technology needed for home safety and demonstrates/trains in all types of AT for individuals with hearing loss.

#### ATTACHMENT 8.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS:

The ATAP Demonstration Center at TechACCESS continues to provide assistive technology information to individuals of all ages with all disabilities via email, phone (800#), website and individual visits to the demonstration center. TechACCESS is developing follow-up procedures to determine the effectiveness of the Information and Referral services. TechACCESS will expand its resource room, which is open to the public at no charge, and ensure that inventory list is user-friendly, accessible to all, and available on line.

In addition, OSCIL produces and distributes a quarterly informational newsletter called "*Signs of Independence*". The OSCIL website is being updated to include an AT page. OSCIL has been a lead in advertising the ATAP program through presentations and exhibits at Senior centers.

ATAP organizes and holds an annual statewide conference on assistive technology with the involvement of the partners and other private and public agencies. Last year over 350 people attended 15 informational sessions and visited over 38 vendors. The Conference is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> this year.

#### ATTACHMENT 8.3 COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION:

The ATAP partners have continued to collaborate with each other as well as other community organizations. The partners are exploring ways to ensure consistency in our message about ATAP via a new logo and increased visibility. The marketing efforts are intended to strengthen the identity of ATAP as a resource for the provision of AT in RI.

TechACCESS is providing technical assistance to the RI Department of Education, Office of Special Needs, and the newly organized Instructional Resource Center to assist with the implementation of new Federal Regulations regarding the Instructional Materials Accessibility Act for Students with Print Disability.

OSCIL/ATAP is serving as a satellite location for “The Point” – a call center for individuals with disabilities looking for information about resources. Many of the callers are looking for funding resources or information about obtaining AT.

The ATAP Director is meeting with the Disability Navigator of the One-Stop netWORKri Centers to establish training opportunities for network staff on assistive technology resources, adaptive telephone communication devices, and access issues. In addition, the AT Director is planning to meet with the RI Special Education Directors to talk about transition and the ATAP program.

## **VI. ATTACHMENT 10: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

### ATTACHMENT 10.1 STATE SUPORT FOR STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES:

ORS provides in-kind administrative support for ATAP in the form of office space, telephone, office supplies, etc. ORS anticipates leveraging state dollars to implement a state financing system that provides adaptive telephone equipment.

PARI Independent Living Center receives state funding from Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) to assist low-income elderly to obtain devices through AT Device Reutilization program.

### ATTACHMENT 10.2 STATE SUPORT FOR STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

TechACCESS received funds from the RI Department of Health, the Citizens Bank Foundation, the RI Foundation and The RI Health and Educational Building Corporation to

support the operations of the ATAP Demonstration Center, and purchase additional assistive technology devices.

TechACCESS provides other assistive technology activities that are not in the RI State Plan including individual assessments and training for students in public and private schools; individual AT assessment and training for adults and employers; in-home assessments to young children and youth receiving Medicaid; and customized workshops to build assistive technology capacity in RI school districts.

**VII. ATTACHMENT 11.0 BUDGET BASED ON 70/30 FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE**

ALLOCATION OF TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT \$312,752.00		
2008 Grant Amount		\$312,752.00
Indirect Costs		30,000.00
Remaining Funds		282,752.00
State Level Activities	70%	\$197,926.00
State Leadership Activities	30%	84,826.00
Leadership activities	95% (of the 30%)	80,584.00
Transition activities	5% (of the 30%)	4,242.00
Total		\$282,752.00

**VIII. DESCRIPTION OF ANY CHANGES**

During the next federal fiscal year of 2008, the Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership, in addition to state level and leadership activities noted above, will also be focusing on some of the following initiatives:

- Creation and implementation of a marketing strategy for the ATAP program including updated ATAP/RICAT literature and website, a new logo, and advertisements on local public buses.
- Development and implementation of a consumer satisfaction survey.
- Integration of data elements reported quarterly by the ATAP partners into the RSA data collection system so that the RI ATAP annual report will be completed by January 30, 2008.
- Engagement of allied health professional into the ATAP demonstration and training services.
- Examination of our subcontracted agencies to ensure that each partner is implementing their work plan in a manner consistent with the goals of the AT Act.
- Exploration of the NEAT Marketplace and Northern Rhode Island Collaborative as resources to build capacity.
- Development of strategies to target living, learning and work environments that are underutilizing ATAP initiatives.



- Formulation of procedural guidelines for the statewide device loan, demonstration, and re-utilization programs.
- Identification of initiatives that the New England AT Directors can collaborate on to enhance regional programs.
- Implementation of a funding source database.
- Integration of the Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL) into our partnership.
- Participation in the quarterly New England AT Directors planning meetings at Assumption College with 10/26/07 being the first scheduled date.
- Presentation to Special Education Directors, Rhode Island High School Principals and the Regional Transitional Advisory Councils by the AT Director.

In conclusion, Dr. Anthony, please contact Kathleen Grygiel if you have any questions. She can be reached at 401-421-7005, extension 373 or e-mail at [kgrygiel@ors.ri.gov](mailto:kgrygiel@ors.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raymond A. Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond A. Carroll  
Administrator